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NEW MEXICO

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Production and Marketing Administration
State College, New Mexico

10-1-48
No. 314

WEEKLY FARM PROGRAM NEWS

CCC OFFERS POTATOES FOR LIVESTOCK FEED - The Commodity Credit Corporation is offering second grade Colorado potatoes for sale to New Mexico livestock feeders at 30 cents per hundredweight, sacked and delivered by rail to the purchaser's nearest shipping point, according to C. V. Hemphill, Chairman of the State PMA Committee. "Also," he said, "these potatoes can be purchased in truckload lots in San Luis Valley at 10 cents per hundredweight in bulk or 20 cents per hundredweight if sacked."

"These potatoes are being purchased by the CCC through the Price Support Program and, because of inadequate storage facilities, must be disposed of within the next few days to avoid being ruined by frost," Mr. Hemphill continued.

"All feeders desiring to purchase these potatoes for livestock feed should contact their County ACA Committee immediately," he concluded.

MORE FARM STORAGE NEEDED - Due to outstanding crop production this year, farmers are finding it necessary to provide more storage space on their own farms, according to C. V. Hemphill, Chairman of the State PMA Committee. "Unless farmers can put their crops in safe storage they cannot take advantage of the loan programs being administered by County ACA Committees," Mr. Hemphill said. "Beans and grain sorghums are the two principal crops grown in New Mexico for which there is a critical need for additional storage," he continued.

Mr. Hemphill urges all bean and grain sorghums farmers to contact their County ACA Committees for details regarding the Government price support programs and storage requirements.

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WHY SUPPORT PRICES? - Prices of some farm products had been supported at somewhat lower levels beginning in 1933, as a part of an over-all program of economic recovery. Following the droughts of the mid-thirties, the emphasis was on the ever-normal granary idea of storing the surplus in years of high production.

Support prices in this period (1938-1941) were instrumental in building up large stocks of wheat, corn and cotton. These stocks of wheat and corn were extremely valuable when it became necessary to expand livestock production to supply our armed forces, our fighting allies and our domestic requirements. The large stocks of cotton permitted a reduction in cotton acreage with an expansion of oilseed production in the south. Due to the war and post-war needs, stocks at the present time are at very low levels even though crop conditions have been unusually favorable for several years. It will be to the advantage of our entire economy if our stocks are built up in order to meet our needs during the inevitable years of adverse weather and crop conditions.

With respect to support prices generally, there are two items which need to be noted. First, support prices are in effect a form of insurance. Farmers are requested to hold or maintain production at a level which will meet domestic and foreign needs, and in return they are given some assurance against disastrous price breaks. Second, actual support-price operations have been relatively minor during the war and so far in the post-war period.

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WHERE GULLIES START - The next time you notice a gully cutting across a field, stop long enough to realize how far back that gully goes. It goes right back to the shelves of your grocery store. Not only is it eating away the topsoil of a farm but it is taking cans of peas, corn and tomatoes from the shelves of your grocery store. It is taking beans and potatoes and flour from the bins and lamb and pork and beef from the meat counter. That gully is eating into your food supply. And the food supply of those who come after you.

Too often we fail to realize the significance of such things as gullies cutting their ways across a field or muddy water on its way out to the ocean, says _____ chairman of the _____ County Agricultural Conservation Assn. People from town may notice the gully and the ugly way it cuts into a field but how many of them realize that it has anything to do with them. It may be recognized as erosion but erosion is a farmer's problem, they may say.

Too few of us realize that that gully — and thousands and thousands of other gullies — are eating away the source of our food. Topsoil is the most valuable natural resource we have and gullies are wasting that resource. All of us depend on the soil and all of us should be concerned about the loss of that soil.

Through the Agricultural Conservation Program the Nation cooperates with its farmers in the building of terraces, contour farming, the construction of dams and other practices which keep gullies from cutting across the land. In this way the interest of each person in the country is being protected.

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MUDDY WATER - One of the big jobs of the Agricultural Conservation Program is clearing up muddy water, says _____, chairman of the _____ County Agricultural Conservation Committee. In most cases muddy water means that good topsoil is leaving the farm.

One of the most effective means of checking water erosion, the Chairman points out is to tie the land down with grass and legumes. The heavy close-growing vegetation protects the soil from heavy rains and breaks the flow of water over the surface. The roots lead the water into the soil and at the same time hold the soil together.

Among ACP practices which help control erosion through the establishment of sod are seeding legumes and grasses, the application of phosphate which increases the growth, and control of grazing on range and pasture.

Among other means of controlling erosion is to place obstructions in the way of the water. The water is held back on the land and if there is more than can soak into the soil, it is spread out or diverted to a sod waterway where it can drain away without taking the soil with it. Practices in this group, the Chairman indicates, are dams, terraces, spreader ditches, and contour farming.

When drainage water already has started cutting away the land, there are a number of program practices to help the farmer — rip-rapping, weirs, check dams, flumes, and lining drainage ditches with materials that protect the banks. Sometimes fast-growing plants are started in ditches and gullies to hold the soil and help fill them up.

Full information on all of these practices is available at the County Agricultural Conservation Office.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Production and Marketing Administration
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NEW MEXICO

WEEKLY FARM PROGRAM NEWS

10-8-48
No. 315

NO COTTON QUOTAS FOR 1949 - There will be no marketing quotas on cotton for the 1949-50 marketing year, according to an announcement by Secretary of Agriculture Charles F. Brannan.

In explaining the reason for this decision, the Secretary said that quotas will not be proclaimed because the "total supply," of American cotton, as defined by the controlling legislation, is less than the amount which would make quotas mandatory.

He added further, "If quotas had been required for the 1949 cotton crop, the present legislation, with its many minimum provisions, would have required the Secretary to establish total acreage quotas of not less than 27,000,000 acres. This year's total acreage is only about 23,300,000 acres. The minimum quotas which could be fixed for next year would actually have authorized and encouraged an increase of nearly 4,000,000 acres."

Because of this, the Secretary explained, the proclamation of quotas would have operated directly contrary to the original intention of the law, which was to reduce cotton acreage.

This announcement of no quotas for cotton in the 1949-50 marketing year will not change the support level to producers for the 1949 crop. The crop will be supported at a loan level of 90 percent of the July 15, 1949, parity.

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CONSUMERS BENEFIT FROM PRICE SUPPORTS - Consumers as well as farmers benefit from government price support programs, says _____, chairman of the _____ County Agricultural Conservation Committee.

Price support programs encourage storage of surpluses, says Mr. _____.

When there is more wheat or corn or potatoes than can be handled by marketing facilities, a farmer can get a loan and put the surplus in storage. The loan program before the war helped to fill the granaries so that bread rationing was not necessary during the war. Now that the granaries have been emptied for war needs and to feed famine-stricken people in war devastated countries, the loan program is helping to fill them up again for use by consumers later on.

By the end of August this year, nearly 100 million bushels of wheat had been placed in storage under loan. For consumers full granaries are the best assurance of enough to eat if lean years should come.

Price supports also help the consumer, the chairman points out, by encouraging an adequate production. When farmers are sure they will be protected against ruinous price drops, they follow their natural bent and do everything to produce abundantly, the chairman points out. "Price supports coupled with conservation measures practiced by farmers made possible the 35 to 40 percent increase in food production we've had during and since the war."

On the subject of consumer prices, he says, "Certainly prices would not have been lower if less food had been produced. Food items about which there is the greatest complaint are commodities that are not supported. There are no price supports on beef and lambs.

"Farmers must protect their crops by storing them if they are to have the benefit of price supporting loans. The loan program is an incentive for farmers to produce and to protect what they produce."

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THIRD LARGEST SPRING PIG CROP ASKED - A spring pig crop goal of 60 million pigs has been announced by the U. S. Department of Agriculture. The goal calls for an increase of 9 million pigs over the 1948 spring crop. If the goal is achieved, it will be the third largest spring crop of pigs ever produced in this country.

Two reasons lie behind setting up such a large goal. One of them is that

consumers want more meat. If the goal is met about 150 pounds of meat per capita will be available as compared with the present 145.

The second reason is that there is plenty of feed, particularly corn, to feed such a pig crop. This year's record crop will be large enough to feed an even larger pig crop than the one called for. The supply of other concentrates, such as grain byproducts and oilseed meals, also is at a record high level.

C. V. Hemphill, Chairman of the New Mexico State PMA Committee, said that the farmers in the Corn Belt States are in an especially favorable position to increase their hog production. However, all States will be asked for an increased spring pig crop. State goals will be established with the cooperation of State USDA Councils.

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CONSERVATION PLANNING FOR '49 - What is the most serious soil erosion, depletion or water conservation problem on your farm?

The answer to that question should be the guide in planning conservation practices to be carried out under the 1949 Agricultural Conservation Program, says _____, chairman of the _____ County Agricultural Conservation Committee.

In making plans for 1949, the chairman asks that each farmer go over his farm and check each field for conservation needs. It may be that a terrace or several terraces are needed to keep the top-soil from getting away on some of the sloping land. Leveling may be needed on another field. The seeding to grass and legumes may be called for on another. Another well may be needed to water range livestock.

Whatever is most needed should be in the plans for 1949. A little advance planning now will insure effective use of the program when 1949 plans are agreed to later with county or community ACP committeemen.

The chairman points out that careful planning with the most needed practices in mind will give the greatest conservation returns to the farmer and to the Nation. For most practices each pay about half of the out-of-pocket cost. "Through such planning both the farmer and the Nation can be assured of maximum returns for the money spent."

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10-15-48
NO. 316

By 1948, American agriculture could point to 10 years (1939 to 1948) of record per capita food consumption, and 7 years of record per capita production of food and of total farm production. New highs in productivity per acre and per man hour hold the answer.

Since the early thirties, except during the 1934-35 drought period, consumption trends have been upward, reaching a peak in 1946.

By 1944-47, per capita food production averaged 28 percent greater than in 1932; per capita production of all farm products averaged 24 percent greater.

Judging from records for 40 years, American farmers during the past decade have provided a new pattern of abundant per capita food consumption. Future agricultural programs and progress are bound to reflect this trend.

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BRANNAN SPEAKS ON SOIL CONSERVATION - Some of our most important soil-conservation gains cannot be measured in statistics, Secretary of Agriculture Charles F. Brannan pointed out recently.

Commenting that the Agricultural Conservation Program represents real progress but that we must not become over-optimistic, the Secretary said:

"We have finally recognized that economic conditions have a definite influence on the use and misuse of soil. We have recognized that all of us share responsibility for building up and conserving the land. We have recognized not only that conservation payments are right in our democracy but also that they are a tremendously effective aid in getting the job done.

"We have built a great system of administration in which farmers not only carry out a program but also study the needs of the local farms and help develop program improvements."

These three principles were listed by Secretary Brannan as essential to the success of any national conservation program and as a defined and specific measure for the security of the United States.

- (1) Any program should be administered by locally-elected farmer committeemen.
- (2) We should assist and encourage farmers in establishing soil and water conservation practices by means of payments for practices performed.
- (3) We should provide the technical assistance necessary in making complete conservation plans and carrying out complicated practices on farms.

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BRANNAN LISTS CAUSES OF HIGH FOOD PRICES - Three prime factors are contributing to high food prices, Secretary of Agriculture Charles F. Brannan pointed out in a recent talk before a convention of the Grain and Feed Dealers National Association.

"First, demand is abnormally high," the Secretary said.

"Second, consumers are calling for increased quantities of the more expensive foods and smaller quantities of the cheaper foods. Per capita consumption of the more expensive items such as meat, poultry products, and milk and cream is 15 to 27 percent above the prewar level. For the cheaper foods -- potatoes, sugar, and wheat -- average per capita consumption is 5 to 7 percent under the prewar average.

"Third, increased food marketing charges account for as much of the rise in retail food costs as does the rise in farm prices since June 1946."

Some reasons why price supports are important to the welfare of agriculture and the Nation -- particularly to the welfare of those whose livelihood depends on the farmer -- the Secretary listed as assurance to farmers of the reasonable markets he needs if he is to maintain full-scale production and a measure of protection to the Nation in case of depression.

"Abundance," the Secretary said, "must be profitable to producers as well as to handlers and processors, and it must be profitable on a continuing basis, not merely in boom years...We must not only work toward maintaining large markets and greater efficiency in both marketing and production, we must also provide the price-stabilizing assurances of a flexible, long-range price-support system."

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MAIN STREET AND THE SOIL - Main Street as well as the farmer depends on rich fertile land for health and prosperity, says _____, chairman of the _____ county Agricultural Conservation Committee.

All people, whether in town or on the farm, depend on the land for food and clothing. Poor land doesn't produce enough to feed the farmer and his family and an additional amount to be sold in the grocery stores in town. And, poor land produces poor food.

Poor land and resulting poor crops mean less money for the things the farmer needs. Poor crops mean less money to be spent on Main Street, less for clothing, machinery, homes and home furnishings.

These are some of the reasons, the chairman points out, why the assistance given farmers under the Agricultural Conservation Program means as much to the business men in town as they do to the farmer. This assistance makes it possible and supplies the incentive for farmers to carry out conservation practices which not only keep soil from washing and blowing away but build it up for continuing production.

The 12 years of conservation work under the AC Program helped make possible the record-breaking crop this year, says the chairman. Bigger crops mean more food for health and energy. "Through the Agricultural Conservation Program the Nation is investing in better living for the people in town as well as the farmer."

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NEW MEXICO

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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State College, New Mexico

10-22-48
No. 317

WEEKLY FARM PROGRAM NEWS

USE MORE POTATOES - Now is the time for housewives to lay in their winter's supply of Irish potatoes according to C. V. Hemphill, Chairman State PMA Committee. "Potato farmers of Colorado and other northern states are harvesting one of the largest crops in history and are finding it difficult to provide sufficient storage space. As a result, the price of potatoes is lower now than it will be later". Mr. Hemphill said.

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CRAWLEY DISCUSSES GOVERNMENT AND AGRICULTURE - Government responsibility in soil and water conservation, research and supporting the price of farm commodities was discussed by William B. Crawley, Assistant Administrator for Production of PMA, at a recent meeting at Monroe, Louisiana.

On conservation Mr. Crawley said that one of the most important jobs of Government in promoting the general welfare is the conservation of our soil and water resources. Since soil is the main source of our food and much of our shelter and clothing, the conservation of the soil is fundamental for continued existence.

Mr. Crawley pointed out that the program of sharing costs of conservation with the farmer under the Agricultural Conservation Program is the most efficient and effective way of getting the job done that has yet been found. He said that it is the responsibility of everyone to help protect the soil just as it is the responsibility of everyone to share in the cost of other forms of National Protection.

Research which furnishes the farmer with improved methods, plants and outlets for what he produces, he indicated, is a means for assuring increasingly effective use of the land and its products.

On price supports he said that we cannot expect abundant production if that abundance depresses prices to the point where the farmer is penalized for successful production.

In reply to the criticism that Government price supports for farm products are keeping prices up, he pointed out that many farm commodities are not supported and that most other commodities from the farm are above support price. For those products which are supported the support is 90 percent of parity which is 10 percent below a balance between what a farmer has to sell and what he buys. Cotton is the only exception, currently supported at $92\frac{1}{2}$ percent of parity but this drops to 90 percent in 1949.

He added, "We can lose our freedom by erosion as well as by invasion and we can be brought into economic bondage through ruinous prices.

"Price supports and conservation go hand-in-hand. A stabilized farm market helps to make farming a sound business. With assurance of stability in the market, the farmer can go ahead and build up his land. He isn't forced to mine the soil for a bare existence. With the help of the Agricultural Conservation Program he can carry out the conservation practices needed to keep his farm producing abundantly.

"The Nation benefits from the abundant production and the protection to the soil which assures that same abundant production in the future."

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FARM ELECTION DATES SET - Community farmer committee elections will be held in _____ county _____,

Chairman of the County Agricultural Conservation Committee announced today.

At these elections committeemen to administer the Agricultural Conservation Program and related programs for 1949 will be chosen. Since both the Agricultural Conservation Program and Price Supports are of vital concern to farmers of _____ county, it is to the best interest of each farmer to participate in this election.

This farm program with its elected farmer committees gives farmers an opportunity to administer their own program. It is truly a democratic method of administration.

Mr. _____ said that any person who is participating in the 1948 agricultural Conservation Program, Sugar Program, who is eligiblo for a commodity loan or other price support or who has a contract with the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation is eligible to vote in the elections.

Details of how the elections will be held are as follows;

(GIVE DETAILS AS TO WHERE VOTING WILL TAKE PLACE).

Every farmer who is oligible to vote has a responsibility to cast his or her ballot, the chairman states. "We may well be at the cross-roads this year. We may neglect our opportunity to administer our own program and let control of agriculture slip away from us. Or we may unite back of the farm program and build for a better and stronger agriculture in the future. It is our choice."

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LOVELAND SHOWS IMPORTANCE OF PRICE SUPPORT - It's the Nation's business -- the Government's business -- to help farmers keep their land productive and if farmers are to conserve their land, the farm program must be maintained to keep prices from dropping to the point where farmers cannot make a living let alone conserve the land, Albert J. Loveland, Under Secretary of Agriculture, said recently at a corn storage demonstration meeting at Clarion, Iowa.

Mr. Loveland recalled conditions when farmers had no price support programs and a big crop meant real trouble for the farmer. He pointed out that on June 29 of this year the price of No. 2 yellow corn at Chicago was \$2.30 a bushel. Three months later it was \$1.61.

"Yes, the drop was bad enough and it hurt, but it came to a stop," said Mr. Loveland, because "today we've got a corn loan program. We don't have to dump our corn on the market. We don't have to take whatever is offered as long as we have the right kind of storage -- right on the farm.

"Both the conservation and price support programs are programs for the Nation. Careless talk about payments to farmers as though this whole fundamental effort were merely a "slick scheme" to pay farmers a subsidy is tiresome..."

He stated that "loose charges" that farmers are being ordered around by "bureaucrats" are without foundation. On the other hand, "There were plenty of people telling farmers what to do when corn was down to 15 cents."

He warned against efforts to blame the farmer for high retail prices and the current proposals to lower 1949 price-support levels, charging that these suggestions "stem from the same sources that were against the farm program from the beginning."

He urged farmers to help give the public a better understanding of the real purposes of conservation and price supports and to see that farmers continue to administer farm programs.

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10-29-48

WEEKLY FARM PROGRAM NEWS

NO. 318

COMMITTEEMEN CHARGED WITH IMPORTANT RESPONSIBILITIES - Committeemen and delegates elected in the community elections to be held (Give date or dates of elections) will have much to do with the progress made in farm production and soil conservation as well as price supports and marketing programs in 1949.

At these elections a community committee will be elected to aid in administering the Agricultural Conservation Program and in carrying on price support activities in the community. At this same election delegates will be elected to attend a county convention for the purpose of electing a county committee.

These committeemen represent the farmers in their communities and the county in making recommendations on farm programs. The county committees are charged with the responsibility of administering farm programs having to do with soil and water conservation, production goals, price supports and other programs dealing directly with farmers.

Since all farmers are concerned with what they get for their crops and what crops to grow and how to keep up the productivity of the land, all farmers should be interested in who administers farm programs having to do with these problems.

Every farmer who has participated in the 1948 Agricultural Conservation Program or the Sugar Program, who is eligible for a commodity loan or other price support, or who has a contract with the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation is eligible to vote in these community elections.

The decisions which farmers make at these elections may have far-reaching effects on the future of agriculture. The effectiveness of this farmer administration may well determine the future of farm programs. And what happens to farm programs may have much to do with the security and prosperity of the Nation.

LITTLE TIME LEFT TO FINISH 1948 CONSERVATION PRACTICES - With winter not many weeks away there is little time left in which to complete conservation practices under the 1948 Agricultural Conservation Program, says C. V. Hemphill, chairman of the New Mexico PMA Committee. He urges farmers who have unfinished practices to use the remaining time to complete their conservation jobs.

Early frosts and bad weather often end conservation work before projects are completed. Every bit of conservation work that can be completed will mean that much more soil saved, or water conserved.

He urges farmers who have completed conservation work to report their projects to the county Agricultural Conservation Program office. Sales slips, seed tags or other required evidence should be presented.

"This kind of cooperation on the part of the farmers of _____ County will help speed up the work of the county office and insure earlier payments to farmers of the Government's share of the cost of the approved conservation practices," said Mr. Hemphill.

Practices which still can be carried out or completed in _____ County include: (list practices) _____.

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BEEF AND CONSERVATION - There is a close relationship between the condition of cattle when they come off the range and the range itself, says _____, chairman of the _____ county Agricultural Conservation Committee.

Fat cattle -- especially "dry stock" -- indicates that the range has been good and that in all probability the palatable grasses and other forage have not been dangerously over-grazed. Some of the grass has been allowed to go to seed so that the stand of grass can be maintained or improved. Enough of the growth has been left to assure the storing of reserve plant food in the roots to carry the plant through the winter and produce a vigorous growth next spring.

Where the vegetation has not been fed down too closely, there has been a good cover to catch and hold moisture. The roots of the grass have helped to hold the soil. This has been a protection against floods and erosion. More water has been absorbed in the soil to feed springs and seeps later on. This has meant a more even flow of irrigation water for farmers and a better city water supply.

To the rancher, it usually means more economical and faster gains. Conservation of rangeland and more economical production of beef go together, Mr. _____ said. Numerous tests have shown that more beef can be produced with fewer head of cattle where the range is properly grazed instead of trying to make sure there are enough cattle to eat all the grass.

According to Mr. _____, many ranchers are using the Agricultural Conservation Program to help them with their range improvement problems. Ranchers cooperating in the Program are finding that grazing on "the safe side" with ample reserves and leeway for dry years is paying off in a steadier production of more pounds of higher quality beef and lambs with lower production costs. In other words, says Mr. _____, "conservation of rangeland pays."

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FARM INCOME AND THE NATIONAL WELFARE - For the good of the whole country, farmers need a fair return from their crops, says C. V. Hemphill, chairman of the New Mexico PMA Committee. He recalls that extremely low prices which at first appear to benefit the consumer have always been shortlived. The final result has been ruin to the farmer, disruption of plans and practices to conserve the land and a net loss to the whole country.

Stability of agriculture is one of the benefits to the whole country which comes from a fair return to the farmer. With the necessary security, the chairman points out, farmers make their home on the land and build up the farmstead and the soil. To the consumer this means continued operation of the food pro-

duction plant. It means abundant and steady production instead of spasmodic and uncertain crops.

The farmer who feels secure on his land takes better care of the soil. He is financially able and has an incentive to carry out conservation practices which save and build the soil. The net result is a stability which assures the consumer continued abundant production.

This also results in security and stability for people living in town, the chairman points out. Through fair returns from crops sold, the farmer is able to buy more from the shops. He is a stable market for services and for the household furnishings, machinery, clothing and food processed and sold in the stores.

Mr. Hemphill points out that the process works both ways. When the city family has a good income there is a better market for what the farmer produces. It is the balance and not the advantage of one over the other that leads to better living for all.

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